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REPORTS

OF THE

TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

Butler Hospital for the Insane,

PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION

AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING,

JANUARY 27, 1858.



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PROVIDENCE:
KNOWLES, ANTHONY & CO., PRINTERS.
1858.

N. Y. St. Lib.
24
3-15-1926

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.
1858.

ALEXANDER DUNCAN,
PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM S. WETMORE,
VICE-PRESIDENT.

TRUSTEES.

JOHN C. BROWN,	PHILIP ALLEN, JR.,
AMASA MANTON,	JABEZ C. KNIGHT,
FRANCIS WAYLAND,	JOHN KINGSBURY,
AMOS D. SMITH,	SAMUEL G. ARNOLD,
SAMUEL B. TOBEY,	RUFUS WATERMAN.

THOMAS P. IVES, Treasurer.

ROBERT H. IVES, Secretary.

JOSEPH MAURAN, M. D., LEWIS L. MILLER, M. D.,
BOARD OF CONSULTATION.

ISAAC RAY, M. D.,
SUPERINTENDENT AND PHYSICIAN.

JOHN W. SAWYER, M. D.,
ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN.

MRS. SARAH D. LOVETT,
MATRON.

VISITING COMMITTEES.

1858-9.

FEBRUARY.....	MESSRS. T. P. IVES AND R. H. IVES.
MARCH.....	“ R. H. IVES AND TOBEY.
APRIL.....	“ TOBEY AND WAYLAND.
MAY.....	“ WAYLAND AND KINGSBURY.
JUNE.....	“ KINGSBURY AND ALLEN.
JULY.....	“ ALLEN AND WATERMAN.
AUGUST.....	“ WATERMAN AND KNIGHT.
SEPTEMBER.....	“ KNIGHT AND SMITH.
OCTOBER.....	“ SMITH AND BROWN.
NOVEMBER.....	“ BROWN AND ARNOLD.
DECEMBER.....	“ ARNOLD AND MANTON.
JANUARY.....	“ MANTON AND T. P. IVES.

Application for the admission of patients, may be made to one of the Trustees, or to DR. RAY, who will furnish the form of bond, and all other requisite information.

. Letters and small parcels for the officers or patients, may be left at ANKER GAY'S, No. 50 North Main street.

REPORT

OF THE TRUSTEES.

THE Board of Trustees of the BUTLER HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, herewith submit to the Corporation their Eleventh Annual Report.

The whole number of patients under treatment, during the year, was one hundred and seventy-nine; being considerably less than last year, when the whole number was one hundred and ninety-six. The average number of patients for the year, is one hundred and thirty-eight twenty-five-twenty-sixths, or in whole numbers, one hundred and thirty-nine. On the 31st December, 1856, there were in the Hospital one hundred and forty-two patients; of whom sixty-nine were males, and seventy-three females. During the year 1857, there were admitted thirty-seven; of whom twenty-one were males, and sixteen females. There were discharged thirty-nine; of whom twenty-three were males, and sixteen females. Of these, fifteen were recovered, ten improved,

four unimproved, and ten died. There remained in the institution on the 31st December, 1857, one hundred and forty patients; of whom sixty-seven were males, and seventy-three females.

From the Treasurer's accounts, it appears that the current expenses of the past year have been \$29, 037 33; that the amount charged for board is \$26,885 18; leaving a balance of \$2,152 15 to be supplied, from the permanent fund.

This statement does not include the produce of the farm, although that might very properly be added to the sources of income, since the supplies thus furnished would otherwise have to be purchased, increasing by so much, the current expenses of the Hospital. A distinct account is kept with the farm; from which it appears that the money value of its products, for the past year, is \$3,952, and the balance of account in its favor, after a fair allowance for depreciation of stock and tools, is \$1,502. This is a very favorable result, when we remember that the resources of the institution do not permit a special appropriation for the improvement of the land. It attests the skill with which this part of the work has been done, and leaves room to expect yet greater returns, should we ever be enabled to set apart even a small sum annually for enriching the farm and adorning the grounds.

At the time of our last annual Report, the extensive improvements in the warming and ventilating apparatus, which has just been introduced, were undergoing the severest test of their efficiency to which they probably will ever be subjected. For duration and intensity of cold, the winter of 1856-7 will long be remembered. It is satisfactory to be able to announce that, notwith-

standing the rigor of that unparalleled winter, a genial temperature was constantly preserved through all the wards of the Hospital; and, with a single exception, in the most exposed quarter of the building, where some additional coils of pipe are desirable, there seems to be nothing on these points remaining to be done to ensure the comfort and convenience of the patients.

The cost of these improvements, amounting to \$25,000, was defrayed by the voluntary contribution, by a portion of the Trustees, of the sum of \$15,000, which was the original estimate of the cost; and the excess, caused by an enlargement of the first projected plan, was met by a loan of \$10,000 for one year, which the Treasurer was authorized to make. It is very desirable that this debt should be paid without embarrassing the resources of the institution.

The meetings of the Board have been regularly held, and the duties of the weekly visiting committees promptly discharged during the year. Other visits, not prescribed in the routine of official duties, have been frequently made by various members of the Board. The state of the Hospital and the condition of its inmates have been the subjects of a constant supervision, which enables us to commend the institution with renewed confidence to your favor. Ten years of earnest, faithful labor bestowed by Dr. Ray, have confirmed the judgment that led to his selection as its professional head; while the order and cleanliness that prevail throughout the Hospital, attest the excellence of his subordinates in their various stations.

At the quarterly meeting, in July, Hon. Elisha Dyer resigned his place upon this Board.

At the next quarterly meeting, October 21, Robert

H. Ives, Esq'r, was elected Treasurer of the Corporation, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of our late Treasurer, Moses B. Ives.

In entering upon the second decade of the Butler Hospital, it may not be uninteresting to look back, and briefly to re-capitulate some of the good it has accomplished, and a few of the changes through which it has passed.

It was opened on the first day of December, 1847.

During the first ten years that have just closed, there have been admitted eight hundred and fifteen patients; of whom three hundred and ninety-three were males, and four hundred and twenty-two females. There have been discharged six hundred and seventy-four, viz.: three hundred and twenty-four males, three hundred and fifty females. Of these, two hundred and sixty were considered as recovered, two hundred and eleven as improved, forty-five as unimproved, and one hundred and fifty-eight died.

When we reflect on the fearful nature of the calamity which this charity was designed to alleviate—the most appalling misfortune that can befall humanity—it is some relief to know that so much positive good has been accomplished, in restoring the mental powers; and that incurable cases have been rescued from much physical suffering, and placed in a position where their wants can be properly supplied.

There is another aspect in which the commencement of a new period in the history of the Butler Hospital leads us to regard that which is just completed.

Of the fourteen members of your Board, who in the month of January, 1848, entered upon the discharge of their duties, six only remain upon the list of Trustees.

Of the eight who have withdrawn, five have departed this life, four of whom served upon the Board to the time of their decease. The death of three of these, our fellow laborers, has been appropriately noticed in preceding Reports.

It is our sad duty, at this time, to announce the death of the fourth among us who has "fallen with his harness on," retaining to the last hour of life an active interest in the welfare of this institution. In all the preliminary business connected with the foundation of the Butler Hospital, his active mind and controlling energy bore a leading part. Upon the organization of the Corporation, he was made its Treasurer, and continued to discharge the onerous and often complicated duties of that office, up to the time of his decease on the 7th of August, 1857. How that position was filled, we all know. No man among us could have brought to it a combination of qualities better suited to promote the financial prosperity of the institution, or a kinder heart to sympathize with the sufferings that he was constantly called upon to relieve. As our co-laborer, he was ever ready to assist with the suggestions of his matured judgment; and when the occasion required pecuniary aid, he was among the foremost to meet the demand, with his generous contributions. We feel more deeply than mere words can convey, the absence of his familiar form at our stated meetings. His character remains; a cherished object for our contemplation; and his example will endure, "as the memory of the just."

The accomplished merchant, the steadfast friend, the practical philanthropist, the faithful laborer in every good work of public benefit or private charity, and

above all, the dignified Christian gentleman—these are the qualities that endeared him to our hearts through years of intimate association, and which will ever be connected, in the memory of those who knew him best, with the name of MOSES BROWN IVES.

By order of the Trustees,

AMASA MANTON, *Chairman.*

PROVIDENCE, January 19th, 1858.

REPORT

OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

THE history of the past year furnishes but little, if any thing, deserving of public notice. An institution like this, devoted to the service of humanity, seeks rather to avoid observation, by quietly and unobtrusively pursuing its course, than to excite curiosity by remarkable incidents or brilliant results. Nor can the kind or the amount of good which it accomplishes, be very adequately described by words. The dimensions of sorrow and suffering scarcely admit of measurement, and as little can we calculate all the consequences of their relief. The following statistics furnish the only class of facts that can be definitely stated.

On the 31st of December, 1856, there were in the house, sixty-nine males, and seventy-three females; making an aggregate of one hundred and forty-two. During the year ending 31st December, 1857, there were admitted thirty-seven—twenty-one males, and sixteen females,—making the whole number under care, one hundred and seventy-nine. There have been dis-

charged, thirty-nine—twenty-three males and sixteen females; thus leaving in the house, 31st December, 1857, one hundred and forty—sixty-seven males, and seventy-three females.

Of those discharged, fifteen had recovered, ten were improved, four unimproved, and ten died.

The average number was about one hundred and thirty-nine.

The following table presents the usual recapitulation of every year's results, since the opening of the institution.

Year.	Admitted	Discharged.	Whole No. under care.	Recovered.	Improved.	Unimproved.	Died.	At the end of the year.
1818	156	56	156	17	26		13	100
1819	93	86	193	35	24	7	20	107
1850	73	67	180	19	26	5	16	113
1851	68	54	181	26	8	4	16	127
1852	101	86	228	30	36	5	15	142
1853	92	98	235	44	27	5	22	136
1854	80	85	216	40	20	6	19	131
1855	56	50	187	20	15	4	11	137
1856	58	53	195	14	18	5	16	142
1857	37	39	179	15	10	4	10	140
	814	674		260	211	45	158	

Dr. Macgregor, after two years of faithful service, has just resigned the office of Assistant Physician, and his place has been filled by the appointment of John W. Sawyer.

The present year, you are aware, completes our first decade, and the fact furnishes us with a suitable occasion for reviewing the past, and considering what progress we have made in fulfilling the special objects for which the institution is designed. An occasional self-examination, thoroughly and impartially made, is not less salutary to establishments of this kind, than to individuals. Whether it furnishes ground of encourage-

ment or correction, it will prove a valuable help for the future.

The practical, far-reaching benevolence in which this enterprize originated, cannot be commemorated too often, for the purpose, mainly, of expressing the gratitude and respect of those who have witnessed its benefits, and encouraging others to imitate the shining example. Nicholas Brown was not one of those men who are in the habit of circumscribing very strictly the sphere of their benevolence, although, in fact, his attention has been chiefly confined to institutions of learning and religion. True, no form of suffering ever appealed to him in vain, and it was one of his favorite employments to seek it out and relieve it. Accordingly, it needed no very urgent, nor elaborate representations, to excite his interest in the insane, and when this point was gained his next step, of course, was to make an effectual provision for their welfare. And so, after having devoted a very large portion of his fortune, both during life and after death, to various literary and religious institutions, and especially to the university which bears his name, he bequeathed another and a liberal portion of it, to be used in the establishment of a hospital for the insane. By means of this bequest and Mr. Butler's large donation, as well as numerous smaller contributions by others, this institution was erected and furnished; and on the 1st of December, 1847, it was opened for the reception of patients.

It was one of the conditions under which the money was raised, that \$50,000 should be kept as a reserved fund, of which the interest only could be expended. The available sum was not sufficient to meet the whole cost of construction and furniture; and thus a debt was

necessarily created for this purpose. During the first year or two, in consequence of a very low price of board, and a comparatively small number of patients, the expenses exceeded the income; and thus it happened, that on the 1st of January, 1850, the whole indebtedness amounted to nearly \$20,000. This debt was shortly afterwards discharged by Mr. Duncan, and since then, the receipts have generally a little exceeded the expenditures; though not the actual expense. The unprecedented rise of prices during the last two or three years, has required a rise in the price of board; and, for the most part, the additional sum has been cheerfully paid. Without assuming any merit on this score, we merely state the fact historically, that the poor have been taken at a price not higher, all things considered, than that which has been paid in the communities around us; while the affluent have been provided with accommodations suitable to their condition, on as good terms as could have been obtained any where else.

The number of patients steadily increased, and on the female side, reached the limit of our capacity, some four or five years ago. The male side has been less crowded; but for a year or two past, we have been obliged to decline a patient occasionally. In this particular, the result may not have surpassed the anticipations of those who were most active in forwarding the enterprise; but by most people it was supposed that a great mistake had been made. Among the crowd of curious visitors who came to see the building, while in the course of erection, many were not backward in expressing the opinion, that, in expecting that such a large establishment would be filled from a little community like this, the trustees had showed themselves fully entitled

to a place within its walls when completed. Since then, however, the third stories of the wings which were put on, rather for architectural finish, than the accommodation of patients, have been fitted for the latter purpose, and crowded beyond their proper capacity.

Generally, the building has been found to meet all its special requirements, in a satisfactory manner; but, in the course of construction, many things of subordinate importance were left to the ampler means of the future; and in the progress of improvement, too, every year has brought with it wants that have led to new contrivances and arrangements. It would be hardly worth our while to specify all, or even a small portion of these, though they have all contributed to promote the special object of the institution; but it will suit my present purpose to mention a few of them.

The most prominent among them, is the new building put up last year for the engine, boilers, fan, wash-room, ironing-room, drying-rooms, domestics' sitting-room, &c. As all this was so fully described in the last year's report, I need not dwell upon it here, except to repeat the expressions of satisfaction which were prompted by the trial of the first few months. It cost no trifle, it is true; but no one, who has the least idea of how much it has contributed to our welfare, by furnishing a proper and equable temperature, and an efficient ventilation, and providing facilities for performing some parts of the service more satisfactorily than they were ever performed before, will be disposed to say that it cost too much.

In every well managed hospital for the insane, improvement ought to be the law of its existence, and no narrowness of means will prevent it altogether. Every year should witness some addition, useful or ornamental,

calculated not only to invite the return of reason, but to relieve the tedium of confinement, and gratify that sense of the comfortable and agreeable which is not always obliterated, or even blunted, by mental disease. In the earlier hospitals, this object was very little considered. Food and shelter, together with a little medicine, were regarded as the only things much needed, while the numberless articles of one kind or another, which contribute so much to the charm of a domestic residence—tables, chairs, mirrors, sofas, pictures—were provided on a scale not likely to remind one of home, or any other civilized abode. Hence, the prison-like features of the hospital, necessary in some degree at best, stood out with rigid prominence, unsoftened by the most common amenities of life. As far as the eye could reach, it met nothing but dreary expanses of white wall, and a monotonous succession of doors and windows, unrelieved by the coarsest print or the simplest piece of furniture. The utter incongruity between this condition of things and the object sought for, was seldom noticed by those who had the best opportunity of seeing it. The pre-eminent novelist of our day, who—though he has never placed in that gallery of immortal portraits which have delighted and instructed the present generation, one distinguished by mental disorder—has described, with remarkable clearness, many of those normal movements of the soul which frequently initiate and characterize the manifestations of disease, strongly expressed the painful impression which it once made upon him while visiting one of our establishments.* Of late years, the same inventive philanthropy which conceived

* Dickens. Notes on America.

of the necessity of special institutions for the insane, has proceeded another step, and began to furnish them with whatever can approximate them to the character of a domestic dwelling. It has now become recognized as a fixed fact, that every thing calculated to leave an agreeable impression, is a proper, and to some extent, an indispensable requisite. No considerations of economy should be allowed to interfere with this class of improvements, because they are important instrumentalities for ministering to the mind diseased ; and ought, in justice, to hold a higher place in our regard than those which concern the custody or well-being of the body merely. Governed by these views, we have done something every year to give this abode of the helpless and stricken, a more cheerful aspect, and enlarge its power to meet every variety of taste and cultivation. Our means would not enable us to do all we wished ; but by steady perseverance in small efforts, with the help of liberal friends, we are now able to look back with some degree of satisfaction on what has actually been accomplished.

On the female side, the walls of every apartment, of whatever kind, except the common dormitories in the third story, have been covered with paint or paper. Two of the halls have also been ceiled to the height of three and a half feet, with red pine. On the male side, the walls have been covered to nearly the same extent, with paint or ceiling—the work, chiefly, of patients and attendants. It needs no stretch of imagination to conceive how much more agreeable things for the eye to rest on, are a brightly colored paint, and the endless combinations of figure and color in a paper hanging, than naked walls, turned by frequent washing from white to dingy grey. Especially, have we endeavored,

in this way, to render the apartments of the most violent and excited patients, not less agreeable than any others, and thus deprive them of that jail-like aspect which was supposed to be inseparable from the quality of strength. A few rooms stronger than the rest are implicitly required by regard to the highest welfare of the patient, but they need not be ugly or forbidding. Here, as well as elsewhere, the eye may rest on brilliant colors and graceful forms.

Deeply impressed with the power of pictures to produce the same kind of effect, in a still higher degree, we have used every opportunity to obtain them; and, now thanks to friends who needed only a hint, we number among our possessions, thirty-three oil paintings; one hundred and thirty-five copperplate or steel engravings, framed and glazed, few of them measuring less than four hundred square inches; fifteen finely colored lithographs, handsomely framed; and a considerable number of maps, panoramic views, &c. Some of them have been placed on the walls of nearly every hall, dining-room, and common dormitory; and there they have remained, the most of them several years, without sustaining a single intentional injury to glass, frame, or canvass. The beneficial effects of these works of art are beyond a question. They catch the eye, in many a listless moment; they please a cultivated taste; they divert the mind from its morbid fancies, and suggest more genial topics of contemplation. Their value is now very generally recognized; for scarcely a hospital in the country, I imagine, is entirely without them. For a pleasing and valuable contribution to our collection, we were indebted, during the year, to John Kimball, Esq., of Concord, N. H.

Among other things, exerting a similar influence, and

for which we are indebted to the kindness of others, are a piano, and a magic lantern, with some two hundred dollars' worth of slides. That they have contributed much to promote the happiness of our inmates, and thus promote the special end in view, does not admit of a doubt. The former, in fact, has become indispensable; and thus we are enabled to reckon among our means for occupying the mind, one amusement, at least, that never loses its interest.

In such an establishment as this, a liberal supply of books is scarcely less requisite than a liberal supply of food and clothing. A large portion of our inmates have lost none of their interest in books; and especially to those who have no disposition to labor, and consequently have much time on their hands, books prove an invaluable resource, as any one would suppose by imagining himself confined to the house, a great part of the day, with nothing to read but the almanac and newspaper. Our library has been increased from year to year, chiefly by donations both in money and books, and now numbers about eight hundred volumes of standard works in history, biography, romance, poetry, travels, morals and religion, besides some hundred more of no commercial value at all, but which serve a very useful purpose here. It gives me much pleasure, in this connection, to acknowledge, among the gifts of the past year, one of a hundred volumes, of our own selection, from James Y. Smith, Esq., late mayor of the city. A more acceptable or useful present we could hardly have received. Many an hour will be beguiled of its weariness by those books; and the amount of good thus conferred, would, of itself, be sufficient to warrant one in believing that he had not lived in vain.

Under the head of "repairs and improvements," which always appears in our annual statement of expenses, are embraced, among the countless changes rendered necessary by the usual depreciation, some of a permanent character, deserving some notice on this occasion. The floor-boards of our halls, though carefully selected and kiln-dried, became, after a year or two, so shrunk and splintered, that regard for safety as well as appearance, required that the floor should be re-laid. Half of them have been taken up, (the edges tongued and grooved where needed,) and again laid down. Thus, they make, —what is of no small importance—a perfectly smooth, tight floor. It is an expensive and troublesome job, but so necessary, that the rest, as opportunity offers, should be subjected to the same process.

The introduction of steam-coils into the dining-rooms, mentioned in the last report, has proved a great addition to our comfort, in a particular where comfort is almost, if not quite equivalent to good humor and mental serenity among mankind, whether sane or insane. The distance to which the food must be sent before reaching the dining-rooms, rendered a cold dinner quite unavoidable; but with these conveniences, the evil is perfectly obviated. They are worth all they have cost us, in the satisfaction they have thus afforded.

The provision with which we started for supplying the establishment with water, consisted of an iron tube, eight inches in diameter, sunk to the depth of ninety-five feet, in which there stood five or six feet of water which was lifted by a simple, wooden pump, worked by a steam-engine. This proved to be inadequate for our purposes, and after several partially successful attempts to get a reliable well, we finally, in 1851, obtained the

present. It is seventy-eight feet deep, four feet in diameter, with a wall two feet thick. The depth of water is very uniform, varying but little, at any time, from four feet. It is raised by one of Manchester's double-acting copper pumps, to cisterns on the surface, and thence by another pump, to cisterns in the attic. The supply is abundant and of excellent quality; but, of course, it costs something. To raise some forty or fifty hogsheads of water per day, one hundred feet or more, is an expensive operation, at best; to say nothing of the vexation and discomfort always incident to the working (or rather, not working) of so much machinery. It is not strange, therefore, that the late movements for supplying the city with water, were viewed by us with the liveliest interest. The last project submitted to the people, would have brought the water directly by our door. That project, as we all know, was not adopted; and thus our hopes of obtaining one of the greatest physical comforts such an institution can possess, were disappointed. Still, we have the faith to believe it will come eventually. The time is approaching, unquestionably, when the city must and will have an abundant supply of good water; and we know it can be obtained only in this direction.

Connected with the supply of water, are the provisions that have been made for extinguishing fire. In constructing the building, cisterns were made in the basement, with a capacity of 80,000 gallons, for holding the water that falls on the roof. In 1851, a rotary pump was placed in front of the house, and by means of a capstan turned by horses, and four hundred feet of hose, it can raise this water and throw it upon any part of the building. Two additional cisterns, holding to-

gether about five thousand gallons, were placed in the attics, and are constantly filled with water passing from the roof on its way to the cisterns in the basement. From each, a four-inch pipe descends to the cellar, provided with hydrants in every story, on which hose may be screwed, and thus water be led to the remotest parts of the building.

Our grounds are naturally beautiful ; but their capability, as the phrase is, has not been so fully developed as might have been desired. The soil, though admirably fitted for walks, requires for cultivation, a much larger outlay than we could afford. And as little could we afford that unceasing attention necessary to keep extensive grounds in tolerable condition. Still, a little has been done, every year, in planting trees and shrubs, clearing the groves, removing superfluous growth, ploughing and manuring the soil,—enough to enable us to say that they are somewhat better than we found them. With one of these improvements—the new avenue and lodge—no one can help being favorably impressed. The road, twenty feet wide, and half a mile long, hedged a part of the distance, with buckthorn, is thoroughly drained, and covered with ten inches of excellent gravel. From the entrance at the northwest corner of the estate, it pursues a serpentine course over an undulating surface, through wood and meadow, till it reaches the lawn in front of the house. Few establishments can rejoice in a better approach ; and as the surrounding grounds are improved, it will be unrivalled. It is one of the advantages possessed by our grounds, that they may be made exceedingly pleasing without moving a shovel full of earth, merely by judicious planting.

The farm has, very properly, received considerable attention, for the reason that it furnishes the means of labor to our inmates, and supplies us with much that we should otherwise be obliged to buy ; and that too, of an inferior quality, and much that we should feel unable to buy at all. Its value has been greatly increased by draining and ditching, by putting up better walls and fences, by removing stones and roots, by planting fruit trees, and by erecting additional barns and sheds. Its productive capacity has not been so much increased as might have been expected ; but it must be considered, that when we took it, it was thoroughly exhausted, and that we have depended almost entirely on our own resources for fertilizers. Still, under all these disadvantages, we have, for several years, raised sufficient hay and roots for our cows and horses, and all the vegetables we could consume in the establishment, excepting potatoes, of which the supply has sometimes been deficient. Pure milk, and an abundance of vegetables fresh from the ground, are inestimable comforts in a large household, and would alone compensate us for all the trouble and expense of the farm. By the farm and garden report, you will observe that the net income from this quarter, amounted to a little over \$1,500. During the year before, it amounted to \$2,345. Lest that much suffering class of persons designated by the world as gentlemen-farmers, may regard this statement with some degree of incredulity, it may be well to say, that we enjoy peculiar advantages. Much of the light labor is performed by our patients ; we can always find employment for our people in bad weather ; much is saved by doing our own teaming ; our manure is made chiefly by hogs that live on the offal of the

house ; and lastly, everything we raise is consumed on the place.

In those duties and services which constitute the direct management of the insane, we would fain hope that these ten years have witnessed some advance, though necessarily not so palpable as those material improvements already described. It is not easy to convey a very definite idea of what this advance consists in. We lay no claim to discoveries or inventions ; we have failed to see the humanity or wisdom of dispensing entirely with seclusion or restraint ; in short, we have found no royal road to the great end and object of our labors. We have sought for improvement in a very different direction, by making the law of kindness and gentleness an all-pervading, all-controlling spirit ; by multiplying the inducements to fidelity ; by strengthening the habit of vigilance and forecast ; by holding up the sacredness of the trust implied in the care of helpless and afflicted fellow men ; by developing a tone of feeling more effective than rules for preventing improprieties ; by raising the standard of all those qualities which the service should display ; and so ordering it, in short, as to make it productive of all the comfort and amelioration which may depend upon it. Such, I apprehend, is the direction in which all true progress leads ; and the character of the result is to be determined, not by amateur writers on insanity, but by those who have been much conversant with the disease, and are capable of profiting by their observations.

So much for the past. Whether, at the end of the next ten years, my successor will be able to report an equal amount of material improvement for that period, is a question we may well consider on this occasion.

You are aware that the income from patients has not been sufficient to defray the necessary expenses. The books, no doubt, have often shown, at the end of the year, a different result; but in such establishments, large outlays become necessary, from time to time, which are not provided for in the current income, and which more than absorb the accumulated savings. In 1856, for instance, \$25,000 was expended in obtaining an apparatus for warming and ventilating, in place of the old one, which was worn out. Nine-tenths of this expense should, in justice, have been debited to the previous years, because rendered necessary, though not actually supplied, by the wear and tear of those years. Many other things, not so necessary to mere existence, perhaps, but invaluable as means of promoting the efficiency of the institution, have been procured. Now, either the income should not only be sufficient to meet the current expenses from year to year, but should furnish a surplus adequate to meet those occasional emergencies that admit of no delay, and enable it also, by a steady system of improvements, to hold a respectable position by the side of other similar establishments; or other resources should be provided. We could hardly expect to gain the object in question, by increasing our charges, for any practicable amount of increase would fall far short of the purpose. We have no State Treasury to apply to, when desirous of introducing water or gas, or a better method of warming and ventilating. How these needs have been met thus far—how an institution of smaller capacity than any other in New England, receiving nothing from the State, and possessing but a small endowment of its own, has existed and flourished for a period of ten years, as just de-

scribed—is a matter which this community should rightly understand.

From its opening, in December, 1847, to the present time, the gifts of one kind or another, which the hospital has received, may be estimated at \$39,371 00. Of this amount, \$36,577 00 has been contributed by Trustees. Some of it was for objects which, though very desirable, were not absolutely necessary ; but the most of it was indispensable to an institution claiming a respectable rank. One large sum, as we have seen, was to discharge a debt very inconvenient for us to carry along ; and another, to meet an exigency which, otherwise to all appearance, must have compelled us to shut our doors. We may not require so much aid during the next ten years, but some, unquestionably, will be required, if we would maintain the character of a progressive institution. The question recurs, whence is this aid to come ? The gentlemen, who, year after year, will compose the Board of Trustees, will continue, undoubtedly, to do much ; but it must be recollected that the number of objects strongly appealing to the philanthropy of liberal men is steadily increasing, and will naturally lessen the comparative amount of interest which is felt in this. Besides, the men who were first and foremost in planting the institution, and have watched its growth with a kind of parental solicitude, are passing away, and it can hardly be expected that their successors will feel towards it precisely as they have. The public at large are always ready enough to believe that an institution which has some show of prosperity, needs no farther assistance, and thus would feel, in this case, that their benefactions would be more properly bestowed upon others no less useful, but struggling,

perhaps, for existence. Our reliance must be, therefore, in a great degree, upon those—few in number, perhaps but never entirely wanting, I trust, in this community—who, with the means at their disposal, and a willingness to do something for the public good, are anxious to bestow their bounties where they will produce the greatest possible amount of good. Such men will recognize the importance of advancing an enterprize already established beyond the risk of failure and capable of doing so much acceptable service. No class of institutions appeals more strongly to the sympathies of benevolent men, than hospitals for the insane. The calamity which has stricken down so many and blasted every hope in life, may happen to the wisest and richest as well as the poor and humble; and the time may come, when they will seek for care and protection in the very establishment which their own, or the wealth of their fathers has endowed.

I have intimated, that notwithstanding the untiring liberality of our friends, there are still many prospective wants, which must be supplied before we can make any pretension to the rank of a model institution. We can claim that position, only when we have at our command all the means and appliances which science and philanthropy and a generous liberality have introduced, for relieving the suffering and promoting the comfort and restoration of our patients. A hospital for the insane must always be considered as defective, which lacks any thing calculated, in the slightest possible degree, to secure these objects.

In order to make our position more clearly understood, it may be well, on this occasion, to notice very briefly, the principal wants yet to be supplied. First

and foremost, is gas for lighting, in place of oil. If this were merely a matter of luxury, not another word need be said. But considered in any point of view, moral as well as useful, gas has decided advantages over oil. It has been introduced into the most of our hospitals for the insane; and no one who has ever traversed their brilliantly lighted halls, of an evening, and observed the more cheerful aspect of the patients, could help being struck with the contrast thus presented, to halls whose occupants crouch about in the darkness barely made visible by one or two solar lamps. On the score of cleanliness and safety, too, it has unquestionable advantages. The many lamps required in such an establishment necessarily lead to much spilling of oil, and consequently to much scraping and scouring, and to many trials of temper. All this it is highly desirable to avoid, because the strength and patience of attendants should be reserved for worthier purposes. The care of the lamps is also a tedious, disagreeable duty, and therefore seldom thoroughly done, as it must be, in order to obtain a tolerable light. The superior safety of gas is also an important consideration; for, notwithstanding all the safeguards that can possibly be adopted, it cannot be denied, that the liability to conflagration from this source is greater than from all others put together. The bare mention of open lamps in connection with straw, bedding, clothes-closets, attics—here brought into close and frequent proximity—is enough to convey some idea of the danger to which we are exposed from this source. Neither is it always possible to prevent patients from meddling with the lamps, nor the consequent production of fatal accidents. The introduction of gas, I am sure, is only a question of time; but, for

the reasons given, the sooner it comes, the better. The distance from the city will prevent our obtaining it from that quarter at a feasible expense, and therefore, if we have it at all, it must be made on the premises. Leaving out the cost of the apparatus and fittings, the current expense of gas would not, probably, much exceed that of oil; but that excess would be amply compensated by a more perfect result.

We are yet somewhat deficient in the means of amusement. We are almost, if not quite, the only institution of the kind in the country without a bowling-alley though peculiarly adapted to our purpose, being familiar to our people from childhood and therefore not likely to lose its interest after a little while, and attended with considerable physical exercise. Billiard-tables, though they might not be used to the same extent would, nevertheless, afford to a certain number the only kind of mental occupation which they would appreciate.

Our grounds require a considerable outlay before they can serve very fully their destined purpose. Though they present a pleasing variety of scene, and thus will always be agreeable in some degree, yet little has been done to make them suggestive of the amenities of a comfortable domestic residence. No bower nor rustic seat, no mound nor fountain, no proper walk nor drive, besides the approach, nor any of those numberless contrivances of art, whereby the charms of nature are heightened to all, of whatever culture and taste, is to be found within our limits. No people are more alive to the beauties of landscape scenery, than our countrymen; and among the outward incidents of such an institution as this, I know of none better calculated to make an agreeable, and consequently, a salutary impression, on the

disordered mind. I think we have had frequent proof of this fact in our own experience, being satisfied that much of the contentment and good nature among us may be referred to this source. Whatever, therefore, renders our grounds more attractive, contributes, more or less, to promote that object which is the end and aim of all our labors.

Among the means possessed by some hospitals, for occupying the attention, are museums, or collections of natural history and curiosities of every description, which may be made very attractive places of resort. You are aware that we have nothing of the kind ; but I doubt not that if we had a building suitable for the purpose, it would not long go empty. Indeed, I know of a collection of shells, embracing over a thousand specimens, that would be placed in it at once.

However desirable all these things are, it is obvious enough that they must be obtained by some other means than the ordinary income of the institution, which barely meets the ordinary expenses. The simple statement of the fact is sufficient for the present purpose, in order that it may be well understood, that we are not so amply provided and endowed, as to render the bounties of individuals quite unnecessary.

Your own report, no doubt, will contain fitting notice of him of whose loss we are strongly reminded on this occasion. Eleven years of intimate official relations with him made me acquainted with those sterling qualities of character, which commanded the highest respect and the strongest confidence wherever they were known. He had the interests of this institution much at heart, and in his capacity of Trustee—which office he held from its

organization until his death—he gave to it much of his time and attention. Believing that the enterprize was, pre-eminently, a good one, and calculated to perform a great work of humanity, he never doubted its ultimate success. All his benevolent instincts, all his faith in God and man, inspired him with unwavering confidence in this result. Of the remarkable fidelity and promptness with which he performed the duties of a Trustee, your records contain abundant proof. Of the one hundred and twenty official visits which fell within his allotted turns of duty, during his ten years' service on the Board, I find he missed but nine, six of which, in succession, were in consequence of severe illness. Besides all this, he visited for some one else, forty-five times. One of the last of his regular visits, was made on foot, breaking a path the greater part of the way, immediately after that memorable fall of snow in January last, which blocked up all the approaches to the city. He did this, not because he supposed that any important interest would suffer by the postponement of the visit, but upon one of the leading principles of his life—to allow no difficulty to turn him easily from the performance of any trust, great or small, which he had undertaken. I scarcely need say to those who already know it so well, that he was never a passive or indifferent spectator of anything that deeply concerned his fellow-men; and that, in every enterprize for promoting the public good, his sympathy and support could be reckoned on as surely as the course of nature. His benevolence was not of the kind that began and ended, by saying, "be ye clothed, or be ye fed." His hand was ever ready to co-operate with the convictions of his understanding and the impulses of his heart. This spirit

was strikingly manifested in his connexion with this institution. When it required his time, it was cheerfully given, though more than all of it seemed to be required by his own extensive business and a multitude of fiduciary engagements. When it required his counsel, he gave it the benefit of his strong, practical sagacity, always beyond the influence of any narrow considerations. When it required material aid, he was ready there, too, without entering into any nice calculations respecting the amount. Besides that signal fidelity to his trusts, already mentioned, he had other qualities which admirably fitted him for the general management of institutions devoted to human improvement or relief. His hopeful temper and quiet energy inspired life and confidence into others; and his views, characterized, as they always were, by a clear apprehension and a strong common sense unbiassed by passion or prejudice, seldom failed to obtain their assent. He was conservative enough to cling to all that was good in the past, or present; yet he believed in healthy progress, and was always ready to welcome any movement indicative of it, and give it his hearty support. But it was not my purpose to portray his character or eulogize his virtues, for that duty has been done by abler hands; otherwise, I would gladly call to your mind that kindness of heart which crowded his life with services to his fellow-men; that sympathy with whatever is honest and honorable in men, that knew no distinction of sect or party; that regard for right and justice that had all the strength of a passion; that ever active sense of responsibility which kept him always alive to the claims of duty; and that public spirit which made him foremost in all public undertakings. I simply wished, while of

